

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A method for restoring rice fertility comprising introducing a nucleic acid into rice, wherein the nucleic acid encodes the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO.75, or an amino acid sequence which is identical to at least 70%95% of the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO.75, ~~and which functions to restore fertility.~~

2. (Original) The method of Claim 1, comprising introducing a nucleic acid into rice, wherein the nucleic acid encodes the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO.75.

3. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 1 or 2, wherein the nucleic acid encoding the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO.75, or an amino acid sequence which is identical to at least 70%95% of the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO.75 is selected from nucleic acids of the following a) - p):

- a) a nucleic acid comprising the bases 215-2587 of SEQ ID NO:69;
- b) a nucleic acid comprising the bases 213-2585 of SEQ ID NO:70;
- c) a nucleic acid comprising the bases 218-2590 of SEQ ID NO:71;
- d) a nucleic acid comprising the bases 208-2580 of SEQ ID NO:72;
- e) a nucleic acid comprising the bases 149-2521 of SEQ ID NO:73;
- f) a nucleic acid comprising the bases 225-2597 of SEQ ID NO:74;
- g) a nucleic acid comprising the bases 43907-46279 of SEQ ID NO:27;
- h) a nucleic acid comprising the bases 229-2601 of SEQ ID NO:80;
- i) a nucleic acid comprising the bases 175-2547 of SEQ ID NO:81;

- j) a nucleic acid comprising the bases 227-2599 of SEQ ID NO:82;
- k) a nucleic acid comprising the bases 220-2592 of SEQ ID NO:83;
- l) a nucleic acid comprising the bases 174-2546 of SEQ ID NO:84;
- m) a nucleic acid comprising the bases 90-2462 of SEQ ID NO:85;

~~and which functions to restore fertility;~~

~~o) a nucleic acid which hybridizes to the nucleic acid of any of a) - m) under a moderate or high stringent condition~~
~~hybridization conditions of 0.1 x SSC to 0.2 x SSC at about 60-65 °C~~
~~and/or washing conditions of 0.2 x SSC, 0.1% SDS at about 65-68 °C, and which functions to~~
~~restore fertility; and~~

~~p) a nucleic acid wherein one or a plurality of base(s) is deleted from, added to or substituted from the nucleic acid of any of a) - m), and which functions to restore fertility.~~

4. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 3, wherein the nucleic acid encoding the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO.75, or an amino acid sequence which is identical to at least ~~70%~~
~~95%~~ of the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO.75, and which ~~functions to restore fertility~~,
meets at least one of the following requirements 1) - 12):

- 1) a base corresponding to the base 1769 of SEQ ID NO.69 is A;
- 2) a base corresponding to the base 1767 of SEQ ID NO.70 is A;
- 3) a base corresponding to the base 1772 of SEQ ID NO.71 is A;
- 4) a base corresponding to the base 1762 of SEQ ID NO.72 is A;
- 5) a base corresponding to the base 1703 of SEQ ID NO.73 is A;

- 6) a base corresponding to the base 1779 of SEQ ID NO.74 is A;
- 7) a base corresponding to the base 1783 of SEQ ID NO.80 is A;
- 8) a base corresponding to the base 1729 of SEQ ID NO.81 is A;
- 9) a base corresponding to the base 1781 of SEQ ID NO.82 is A;
- 10) a base corresponding to the base 1774 of SEQ ID NO.83 is A;
- 11) a base corresponding to the base 1728 of SEQ ID NO.84 is A; or
- 12) a base corresponding to the base 1644 of SEQ ID NO.85 is A.

5. - 13. (Cancelled)

14. (New) A method for restoring rice fertility comprising introducing a nucleic acid into rice, wherein the nucleic acid comprises SEQ ID NO: 69 bases 215-2587, or a nucleic acid sequence comprising a sequence having at least 95% identity to the nucleic acid of SEQ ID NO. 69 bases 215-2587.

15. (New) The method of claim 1, in which the rice exhibits BT type cytoplasmic male sterility.